

1
2
3
4
5
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

8 * * *

9 STEPHEN ZARATE,

Case No. 2:17-cv-00511-JCM-CWH

10 Plaintiff,

ORDER

11 v.

12 ROMEO ARANAS,

Defendant.

13 This action is a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by
14 a former state prisoner. On February 27, 2018, this court issued an order directing plaintiff
15 to file his updated address with this court within thirty (30) days. (ECF No. 9 at 2). The
16 thirty-day period has now expired, and plaintiff has not filed his updated address or
17 otherwise responded to the court's order.

18 District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the
19 exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . .
20 dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831
21 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure
22 to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules.
23 See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance
24 with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal
25 for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856
26 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring
27 *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833
28 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson*

1 *v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and
2 failure to comply with local rules).

3 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
4 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:
5 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
6 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
7 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
8 *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130;
9 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

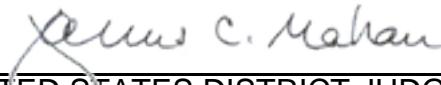
10 In the instant case, the court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in
11 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the court's interest in managing the docket,
12 weigh in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs
13 in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of
14 unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See
15 *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy
16 favoring disposition of cases on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor
17 of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey
18 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
19 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779
20 F.2d at 1424. The court's order requiring plaintiff to file his updated address with the court
21 within thirty (30) days expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if [p]laintiff fails
22 to timely comply with this order, the [c]ourt shall dismiss this case without prejudice."
23 (ECF No. 9 at 2). Thus, plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from
24 his noncompliance with the court's order to file his updated address within thirty (30) days.

25 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
26 plaintiff's failure to file an updated address in compliance with this court's February 27,
27 2018, order.

28 ///
28 ///

1 It is further ordered that the clerk of court shall enter judgment accordingly.
2

3 DATED April 12, 2018.

4 
5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28